UNITED
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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1999/1012
28 September 1999
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

LETTER DATED 24 SEPTEMBER 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF FINLAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to attach the statement issued on 23 September 1999 by the Presidency of the European Union on the demilitarization of the Kosovo Liberation Army (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Marjatta RASI
Permanent Representative of
Finland to the United Nations

99-27827 (E) 280999 280999

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Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement issued on 23 September 1999 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the demilitarization of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA)

The European Union welcomes the announcement by KFOR command that the Kosovo Liberation Army have completed their disarmament obligations. The European Union also welcomes the formation of the multi-ethnic Kosovo Protection Corps, under the political authority of the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and under the operational control of KFOR, to assist UNMIK in protection against civil emergencies. This humanitarian and rescue structure will facilitate the adaptation of the former KLA members into the civilian society.

The European Union expects full and unconditional observation of the agreements and fully supports KFOR in the implementation of the agreements. This will pave the way for a process of stabilization and demilitarization of Kosovar society, development of civilian institutions and inter-ethnic cooperation. The European Union remains firmly committed to assisting the people of Kosovo in their efforts to establish a democratic, multi-ethnic and pluralistic Kosovo, based on the rule of law and full respect for human rights, and re-establishing confidence among the peoples of Kosovo.

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**UNITED NATIONS** **S**

**Security Council**

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GENERAL

S/1999/1013
29 September 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 29 SEPTEMBER 1999 FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO RESOLUTION 1132 (1997) CONCERNING SIERRA LEONE ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to resolution 1171 (1998), adopted by the Security Council on 5 June 1998, concerning Sierra Leone. In paragraph 4 of the resolution, the Committee is required to report to the Council on notifications received from States on the export of arms and related matériel to Sierra Leone, as well as on notifications of imports of arms and related matériel made by the Government of Sierra Leone.

Accordingly, I wish to inform you that the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1132 (1997) concerning Sierra Leone received a notification on 27 September 1999 from the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the export of two mine-detector kits and two demolition kits. The equipment is for the sole use of the Ghana contingent of the Military Observer Group (ECOMOG) of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in Sierra Leone, and is a donation from the Government of Canada. The aforementioned goods are due to be exported from the United Kingdom on 1 October 1999 and will enter Sierra Leone at the Queen Elizabeth II Quay in Freetown.

(Signed) Fernando Enrique PETRELLA
Chairman
Security Council Committee established
pursuant to resolution 1132 (1997)
concerning Sierra Leone

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99-27934 (E) 290999

UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

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GENERAL

S/1999/1014
29 September 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

# NOTE VERBALE DATED 16 SEPTEMBER 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AUSTRIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations presents his compliments to the President of the Security Council and has the honour to refer to the note dated 4 October 1994 of the Secretary-General of the United Nations concerning the application of article 27 of the Statute of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia.

With reference to the above, I have the honour to inform the Security Council that Austria is willing to carry out imprisonment sentences imposed by the International Tribunal on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Austrian Law on the Cooperation with the International Tribunals (Federal Gazette No. 263/1996) and of the Agreement between the United Nations and the Federal Government of Austria on the Enforcement of Sentences of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, done at Vienna on 23 July 1999.

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99-27988 (E) 290999

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NATIONS

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Security Council

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S/1999/1015
29 September 1999
ENGLISH
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# REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON DEVELOPMENTS IN GUINEA-BISSAU AND ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-BUILDING SUPPORT OFFICE IN THAT COUNTRY

## I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 14 of Security Council resolution 1233 (1999) of 6 April 1999, by which the Council requested me to keep it regularly informed and to submit a report to it by 30 June 1999 and every 90 days thereafter on developments in Guinea-Bissau, the activities of the United Nations Peace-building Support Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNOGBIS) and the implementation of the Abuja Agreement (S/1998/1028, annex), including the implementation of its mandate by the Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

2. The Council may recall that in my first report of 1 July on the situation in Guinea-Bissau (S/1999/741), I gave an account of the events of 7 May that culminated in the ouster of ex-President Vieira and the withdrawal of ECOMOG. In the light of those events and the changed circumstances on the ground, I proposed a modified mandate for UNOGBIS and the establishment of a trust fund in support of that mandate.

3. Following discussion of my report, the Council issued a press statement on 6 July expressing support for my decision to establish UNOGBIS with its revised mandate and to create a trust fund. The Council called on Member States to contribute generously to the fund and to assist Guinea-Bissau in its reconciliation and reconstruction efforts.

4. The present report focuses on the latest developments in the country and the role of UNOGBIS since its deployment on 25 June 1999.

## II. CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

### A. Political situation

5. Since the establishment of UNOGBIS there have been a number of positive developments in Guinea-Bissau. The internal political climate has stabilized and the country continues to move in a peaceful and orderly fashion towards the

legislative and presidential elections scheduled for 28 November 1999. The interim President has increasingly assumed the role defined by the Constitution, the day-to-day administration of the country is effectively in the hands of the interim Prime Minister, while the National Assembly has been carrying out its legislative functions. The top hierarchy of the military has reaffirmed their commitment to stay out of politics and to re-orient the armed forces into a more professional service subordinate to civilian authorities.

6. At the international level, there has been, with the help of my Representative, Samuel Nana-Sinkam, a noticeable improvement in relations with neighbouring States and with key international partners. The Embassy of Senegal has fully reopened in Bissau. It is hoped that the imminent arrival of the Ambassador of Guinea to Guinea-Bissau, as well as the forthcoming official visit of the Prime Minister of Guinea-Bissau to Guinea, will further strengthen ties between the two countries.

7. Notwithstanding these positive developments, the internal political situation remains fragile. Government structures and institutions, where they exist, remain feeble. The hold of the interim administration on political power remains somewhat tenuous as many of its senior members were appointed by the military. The amendment of article 5 of the Constitution, which would bar Bissau Guinean citizens who have only one of their parents indigenous to the country from high office, has raised the spectre of intolerance and discrimination. My Representative has been working closely with the transitional Government and other parties to prevent these developments from disrupting the progress achieved thus far.

## B. Democratization and the electoral process

8. The presidential and legislative elections scheduled for 28 November constitute a cornerstone for the democratization process and the peaceful management of the transition. In keeping with the mandate of UNOGBIS, my Representative is cooperating with the transitional authorities to help ensure that the elections are held, as scheduled, on 28 November, in an orderly, fair and transparent manner.

9. At the request of the Government, the United Nations is providing, through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), technical assistance for the various stages of the electoral process and will be coordinating the observation of the elections. A technical assistance team, comprising a chief technical adviser and experts on electoral informatics, logistics, registration and civic education, has been assisting the National Electoral Commission in the preparation of the elections.

10. Moreover, in order to enhance communication among all political parties and the transitional authorities during the crucial period of the electoral campaign, an informal consultative forum has been initiated by UNOGBIS to facilitate contact between political parties, the National Electoral Commission and the National Statistical Census Institute (INEC). These forums have helped to raise the awareness of all concerned on the importance of constructive

participation in the elections. They have also aided in informally articulating ground rules for the responsible conduct of political campaigns.

11. Fourteen political parties have already been registered by the interim Government for participation in the elections, and some of them have nominated their candidates. The African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC), the traditional ruling party, has appointed the current interim President, Malam Bacai Sanha, as its candidate for the presidential elections. The general census and voter registration commenced on 22 August, in accordance with the electoral calendar and was completed in Bissau on 2 September, with 95 per cent of the eligible voters registered. Owing to seasonal and logistical difficulties, the census in the eight provinces took more time than planned, but it has also been completed satisfactorily. The last consignment of electoral materials was received in Bissau on 24 August and has been distributed to the relevant authorities. Presidents of provincial electoral commissions have been appointed and their offices have begun functioning.

12. The National Electoral Commission estimates that, out of the US$ 4.5 million electoral budget, $3.5 million have already been provided by donor countries, in particular by the European Union, the Netherlands and Sweden. Portugal has provided the necessary electoral materials. The authorities are appealing for assistance to raise the remaining resources to ensure the successful completion of the entire process.

## C. National reconciliation

13. As the country continues to move from a state of "non-war" to peace, the transitional authorities have reaffirmed that national reconciliation remains a crucial goal for the long-term stability of Guinea-Bissau. The interim President, the Prime Minister and the President of the National Assembly have all reiterated their commitment and determination to pursue national reconciliation. In this regard, the civil society is playing a prominent catalytic role.

14. During the period under review, the self-proclaimed military junta has been increasingly retreating from day-to-day policy-making and from overt participation in the political process. In the spirit of national reconciliation, on 8 July, the military authorities released the 328 remaining prisoners to the civilian judicial authorities, who have expressed their determination to ensure the application of due process of law.

15. To promote the reconciliation process, UNOGBIS has helped to launch a number of initiatives, including the organization of a National Conference on Reconciliation, on 13 and 14 August, in collaboration with various civil society groups and with the support of the Embassies of the Netherlands and Sweden.

16. The conference brought together representatives of a broad spectrum of civil society, including women and youth organizations, the interim administration, the military establishment, trade unions and the diaspora. Participants at the conference engaged in a fruitful dialogue on national reconciliation and post-conflict rehabilitation and the reconstruction of the

country. In a communiqué adopted at the end of the conference, participants expressed their appreciation to the Secretary-General and the international community at large for the deployment of UNOGBIS and for the sustained support they have given to the people of Guinea-Bissau. They also underscored that the return to constitutional normalcy should be based on free democratic elections.

## D. Military and security aspects

17. Although the internal security situation in the country is calm, conditions remain somewhat volatile. Small arms are circulating widely among civilian population and acts of banditry are on the rise. The military are still in control and omnipresent, particularly in the provinces, manning roadblocks, checkpoints and milling around in uniform. Because of the lack of an appropriate structure, resources and training, there is no functioning police force; this means that routine law and order duties are left to the military for which they are not properly trained.

18. Against this background, sporadic acts of violence have taken place. One such act was the murder of the former Minister of Justice and Attorney-General, Nicandro P. Barreto, on 22 August. The authorities have launched an investigation into the murder.

19. The disarmament and demobilization programme, which experienced a serious setback after the withdrawal of ECOMOG, is proving difficult to revive. Given the uncertainties associated with this current transition, the population has so far not responded fully to voluntary disarmament. UNOGBIS, with the active support of the World Food Programme (WFP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Department for Disarmament Affairs is developing a programme of incentives to encourage civilians to surrender voluntarily arms in their possession. Although this programme is at its incipient stage, it has already gained the support of the Mayor of Bissau, who offered 500 lots of land for cultivation as a contribution to the incentive measures developed by WFP and FAO.

20. Externally, the tenuous stability along the border with Senegal, in the wake of the recent upsurge of fighting in the Casamance region, is a major concern for the transitional Government. Another concern is the reported large presence, across the border in Guinea, of armed elements believed to be supporters of former President Vieira.

21. Faced with these internal and external security concerns, the Government has asked the United Nations to consider favourably the deployment of international military observers to monitor the situation along the borders with Guinea and Senegal and provide a measure of confidence among the population during the electoral process.

22. In response to that request, on 26 August 1999, I dispatched a small mission to Guinea-Bissau to assess, under the guidance of my Representative, the security situation and make recommendations on the merits of the request for the deployment of these observers and, if appropriate, on their mandate and strength. The mission met with the acting President, the Prime Minister, the

Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces and other senior government officials, and travelled around the country, including the border areas with Senegal and Guinea. The mission also visited the latter two countries and the Gambia, where they had discussions on the subject with various government officials. The mission has submitted its report, which is under consideration. I shall revert to the Council on this subject as soon as possible.

## E. Human rights

23. On the whole, the human rights situation in Guinea-Bissau has continued to improve. To promote respect for human rights and the rule of law, UNOGBIS has been working closely with civil society groups and the offices of the Attorney General, the President of the Supreme Court and the Minister of Justice. To improve due process of law, UNOGBIS is helping with the organization of a training programme for 20 lawyers.

24. Despite its limitations, the Judiciary has been endeavouring to speed up hearings of the 600 political and military prisoners in detention, including the 328 political prisoners handed over by the military following the events of 7 May. International observers have been encouraged by the Government to attend the trials of these prisoners when they commence. However, concern continues to be raised about the sub-standard conditions of the detention of these prisoners. Many of the cells in which they are detained are ill-designed and ill-equipped for extended confinement.

25. In a gesture of national reconciliation, the leader of the military junta, General Mané, met with two imprisoned senior military officers of the former regime in the presence of their families, the Attorney-General and a representative from the Presidency. My Representative and a human rights officer have subsequently visited all the prisoners in order to gain a first-hand appreciation of the conditions of their detention and make recommendations for the improvement of those conditions. The visits were also meant to demonstrate to the prisoners that the international community cares about their fate. My Representative has also encouraged the Government to accelerate the judicial process and ensure that the trials are fair and transparent.

## F. Humanitarian situation

26. The humanitarian situation is improving. The programme of assistance in agriculture, thanks to fair donor response, as well as excellent rainfall, is achieving its purpose in all regions of the country.

27. Since my last report, refugees who fled the country continue to arrive from neighbouring States. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has indicated that 1,137 out of an estimated 1,572 persons have thus far been repatriated to Guinea-Bissau from Cape Verde, the Gambia, Portugal and Senegal. Many other refugees are returning of their own volition. There are an estimated 50,000 internally displaced persons who have decided to settle, at least temporarily, with host families, thus contributing to the current agricultural campaign.

28. As a result of the destruction caused by the war, many refugees and internally displaced persons have no homes to return to. Less than half of the estimated 5,000 houses destroyed during the conflict in and around Bissau have been rebuilt. Lack of construction materials in the country has delayed the reconstruction. An estimated $4.4 million of humanitarian international assistance is required to resettle the returnees in the country, help them rebuild their lives and assist host families in the countryside to recover after supporting the heavy burden of feeding and caring for internally displaced persons for 11 months. I wish to express my appreciation to those countries who have provided humanitarian assistance and appeal to them and others to contribute to the Consolidated Inter-agency Appeal for Guinea-Bissau.

### G. Economic and social aspects

29. During the urgent round table held at Geneva on 4 and 5 May 1999, Guinea-Bissau's development partners endorsed the orientations and priorities set by the Government of National Unity as reflected in the various programmes designed to bring about the consolidation of peace, national reconciliation, democratization and national reconstruction.

30. While the assistance pledged has been slow to materialize, the efforts made by the Government of National Unity with the support of the country's development partners have led to signs of improvement, albeit slight, in the economy. The International Monetary Fund and World Bank missions will make it possible for public finance programmes and private-sector activities to resume. Inflation, which is estimated to be 27 per cent in 1999, remains low for a country emerging from a civil war, especially when compared with the 1997 rate of 49.2 per cent. Rice and gas oil prices are still somewhat high, and registration for the new school year has begun in Bissau.

31. Poverty continues to be a genuine concern, owing to the difficult situation prevailing in the areas of health, education, water supply, energy and housing. The sporadic functioning of fragile government structures poses serious problems for good governance.

## III. OBSERVATIONS

32. While undeniable progress has been made since my last report to the Council, the transition process in Guinea-Bissau is still encountering difficulties and many challenges lie ahead in building a strong foundation for sustainable peace. Although the internal security situation remains relatively stable, concerns about the impact of subregional instability in Guinea-Bissau persist.

33. The priority for the people of Guinea-Bissau, with the help of the international community, is to continue to mobilize the political will and resources for promoting reconciliation and respect for human rights and the rule of law, particularly in the absence of a competent judiciary and an accountable and well-trained police force.

34. As can be noted from the report, the mandate assigned to UNOGBIS by the Security Council has enabled it to make contributions in the following four main areas:

(a) Providing support to the process of post-conflict reconciliation and the creation of a climate of confidence and tolerance among all political forces in the country;

(b) Helping to create the most propitious technical and political conditions for the holding of legislative and presidential elections on 28 November 1999;

(c) Promoting constructive and cooperative relations between Guinea-Bissau, its neighbours and its international partners;

(d) Ensuring a coherent and integrated response by the United Nations system and other external partners to the challenges faced by Guinea-Bissau.

35. The further success of UNOGBIS will largely depend not only on the political will and determination of the transitional Government and all the political forces in the country, but also on the availability of resources. it is for this reason that I have set up a trust fund, with the approval of the Security Council. I am grateful to those Member States who have made contributions to the fund and I appeal to those who have made pledges to follow through. The unwavering support of the international community during this critical transitional period is essential for building a sustainable foundation for the return of constitutional order and democracy to Guinea-Bissau.

36. The commitment of the interim Government to ensuring that the elections will take place in free and transparent conditions, and the stated commitment of the military to revert to their normal duties after the elections, bode well for the future of democracy in Guinea-Bissau. The practical demonstration of this commitment by the military junta will be crucial to sustainable peace in that country.

37. It is my hope that the successful completion of the elections will encourage the international community to resume with renewed vigour its cooperation with Guinea-Bissau and contribute to the rebuilding of its state institutions and the reconstruction and rehabilitation of its dilapidated economic and social structures. Our common challenge is to ensure that, in a fragile subregion with various interlocking crises, Guinea-Bissau does not erupt once again.

38. In view of the above, and in order to assist Guinea-Bissau in the fragile post-electoral peace-building period as peacefully as possible, the transitional Government has requested that the mandate of UNOGBIS be extended for one year after its expiry on 31 December 1999. I shall revert to the Council on this issue after consultations with the new Government that will have emerged from the elections of 28 November.

39. I should like to express my appreciation to my Representative, Samuel Nana-Sinkam, and to the staff of UNOGBIS, who worked tirelessly to establish the Office and who have already made notable contributions to Guinea-Bissau's post-conflict peace-building efforts.

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**UNITED NATIONS** **S**

**Security Council**

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S/1999/1016
30 September 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

# LETTER DATED 30 SEPTEMBER 1999 FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 864 (1993) CONCERNING THE SITUATION IN ANGOLA ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have pleasure in forwarding the attached interim report of the Expert Panel established by the Security Council in resolution 1237 (1999) of 7 May 1999, requested by the Council in that resolution and subsequent related decisions.

(Signed) Robert R. FOWLER
Chairman
Security Council Committee established
pursuant to resolution 864 (1993)
concerning the situation in Angola

99-28109 (E) 300999

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Annex

Interim report of the Expert Panel established by the Security Council in resolution 1237 (1999) of 7 May 1999

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 1237 (1999) of 7 May 1999 and subsequent related decisions, by which the Council requested that an interim report be provided by 30 September 1999 by the Expert Panel established to collect information, investigate reports and make recommendations relative to the violation of Security Council sanctions against the União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA).

2. The Expert Panel met for the first time at United Nation Headquarters, on 26 and 27 August 1999. During this meeting, the Panel received extensive briefings from the United Nations Secretariat and tackled a number of important administrative matters related to the establishment and operation of the Panel. The Panel decided that its first priority should be the formulation of a plan of work, and it agreed to convene again in September in order to finalize and approve a plan of work.

3. The Panel held its second full meeting at the United Nations Office at Geneva, on 24 and 25 September 1999. At this meeting, the Panel surveyed the information that was currently available to its members with respect to matters within the Panel's mandate, and agreed on a plan of work. The Panel also considered how best to prioritize its work within the five categories established by the Council, namely, diamonds, finances, petroleum products, representation and travel, and weapons. The Panel has decided that in order to facilitate the sharing of information and expertise, the two original panels (one dealing with arms, and the other with UNITA resources) would as a practical matter function as one panel.

4. In order to enhance the effectiveness of the Panel and bolster its information-gathering capacity, the Panel has decided to establish a base for itself in southern Africa. Arrangements for the establishment of such an office are now being finalized, and it is intended that this office should be made operational before the end of October 1999. The Panel is also establishing an information database and a Web site, and is considering a variety of other information tools.

5. With a view towards helping to lay a solid foundation for the subsequent work of the Panel, the Chairman and/or Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur have undertaken preliminary visits to Washington, D.C., and Moscow (two of the three Troika capitals), and to the headquarters of the Organization of African Unity at Addis Ababa. An early visit to Lisbon, the third Troika capital, is also planned. It is anticipated that the full panel will convene again in mid-October at Luanda, once suitable dates can be agreed upon with the Government of Angola. This visit will be followed by working visits to the headquarters of the Southern African Development Community at Gabarone, and to a number of countries in the subregion. Subsequent visits will also encompass countries in Central and West Africa, and countries in Eastern and Western Europe.

At the urging of the Chairman of the Sanctions Committee, and in view of the very serious situation that continues to prevail in Angola, as well as the urgency of the matters entrusted to it, the Panel decided that conclusions and recommendations relative to particular categories may be released as soon as they have been formulated, rather than being held until the Panel's final report is completed.

In accordance with the request by the Committee established pursuant to resolution 864 (1993) concerning Angola to be kept regularly informed of the progress of the Panel's work, it has been agreed that the Committee will be briefed by the Panel whenever important developments might warrant such a briefing and, in any event, at least once a month.

Anders MOLLANDER
Chairman, Panel of Experts

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**UNITED NATIONS** **S**

**Security Council**

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S/1999/1017
1 October 1999
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ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 1 OCTOBER 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 1 October 1999 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the arbitrary and aggressive United States practices being carried out against civilian vessels transporting humanitarian goods to Iraq (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

99-28314 (E) 011099 011099

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Annex

Letter dated 1 October 1999 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

I draw your attention to the following arbitrary and aggressive United States practices:

1. On 28 August 1999, United States naval forces cruising in the Arabian Gulf intercepted the Chinese freighter Da Hua and led it to a point situated near Iraqi territorial waters to inspect its cargo - a generator equipped with a winching system, for which a contract had been duly signed under the memorandum of understanding (oil-for-food programme). After the inspection, the vessel was prevented from continuing towards the port of Umm Qasr to unload its cargo, on the pretext that the United States naval forces had not been able to inspect the cargo because the winching system attached to the generator was stored in the hold of the ship. The vessel then sailed away from the area of inspection towards the port of Dubai, where it dropped anchor on 2 September 1999 and unloaded its winching system onto a towing vessel in the Arabian Gulf.

Near Iraqi territorial waters, the United States naval forces again intercepted the vessel for inspection and again prevented it from approaching Iraqi ports on the pretext that its cargo was not being carried in a way that would allow the United States Navy to carry out an inspection in the ship's hold. The crew was thus forced to rearrange the cargo before another inspection could take place and the vessel could be permitted to continue on its way. The vessel arrived at the port of Umm Qasr on 10 September 1999 and began to unload its cargo the same day; it sailed from Umm Qasr on 15 September 1999, after unloading all of its cargo.

2. On 18 September 1999, as it was approaching Iraqi territorial waters, the Danish vessel Arktis Crystal was intercepted by United States naval forces, which led it to a certain inspection point. This freighter's cargo consisted of 3,000 tons of beans exported from the Philippines on behalf of a food producer, under the memorandum of understanding (oil-for-food programme). While United States naval forces inspected the cargo, the captain was informed that the vessel was not authorized to enter an Iraqi port because some bags of goods had fallen on the air vents, blocking them and thereby impeding the search. It should be noted that all the documents concerning the cargo were perfectly in order.

The captain of the ship contacted the headquarters of the United States naval forces in Bahrain to obtain authorization to proceed. He also notified the shipowners of the events and requested United States maritime agencies to help him. They replied that they were unable to do so. The shipowners are currently trying to move the ship to another port to repair the damaged air vents so as to facilitate the inspection.

These activities of United States forces cruising in the Arabian Gulf have become a cause for extreme concern, in that they are intended to prevent or

delay the shipment of humanitarian goods to Iraq on vain pretexts, flagrantly contravening the rules of civilian navigation in the Arabian Gulf.

While strongly condemning this senseless use of force by the United States to prevent the shipment of humanitarian goods to Iraq, the Iraqi Government requests you, as the guarantor of the memorandum of understanding, to intervene with the aim of putting a stop to these inhumane, illegal and immoral United States practices.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs

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